



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103 (June 2004)  
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Department of Health

☒ Permanent Rule  
☐ Emergency Rule

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

☒ 31 days after filing.  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

☐ Immediately upon filing.  
☐ Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** Legislation created chapter 18.225 RCW in 2001, which repealed certification and replaced it with licensure for marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors and social workers. RCW 18.225.090 was amended in 2006, adding the phrase, "or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" to the definition of who may provide supervision to mental health applicants. This rule reflects the current requirements.

**Citation of existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed: 0  
Amended: 3  
Suspended: 0

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 18.225.040 and 090

**Other authority:** None

**PERMANENT RULE ONLY (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 06-10-083 on May 3, 2006 (date).  
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: Please see attached document.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Betty Ingram phone (360) 236-4912  
Address: 310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA fax (360) 236-4909  
98502 e-mail Betty.Ingram@doh.wa.gov

**EMERGENCY RULE ONLY**

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- ☐ That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- ☐ That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding:

**Date adopted:**

8/29/06

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

Mary C. Selecky

**SIGNATURE**

*Mary C. Selecky*

**TITLE**

Secretary

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

AUG 30 2006

TIME

10:55

DATE

06-18-043

AM

PM

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

WAC 246-809-110 Definitions; 130 Supervised postgraduate experience; 134 Approved supervisor; 210 Definitions; 230 Supervised postgraduate experience; 234 Approved supervisor, 310 Definitions, 320 Education requirements and supervised postgraduate experience; 334 Approved supervisor standards and responsibilities for for licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors and licensed social workers

CR 103 attachment to: Description of any changes other than editing from posted to adopted version

**WAC 246-809-310(7)**

“One-on-one” supervision, which is currently defined as “face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates be amended to read that, “One-on-one supervision means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and one licensure candidate.”

**WAC 246-809-110(9), WAC 246-809-210(9), and WAC 246-809-310(9)**

The term “peer” has been defined as a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate’s employer or supervisor.

**WAC 246-809-334(4)(b)**

(b) Twenty-five hours of supervision of clinical practice; and (c) Has two years of clinical postlicensure or five years of clinical experience postcertification or licensure (for LICSW’s). The Department of Health determined that the language of the rule should be “and” instead of “or.”

## NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-110 Definitions.** The following terms apply to the licensure of marriage and family therapists.

(1) "Approved educational program" means:

(a) Any college or university accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or its successor; or

(b) A program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), at the time the applicant completed the required education.

(2) "Approved supervisor" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

(3) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner, who has completed:

(a) Three hundred clock hours in graduate or postgraduate marriage and family education, or continuing education in marriage and family therapy or supervision by an approved marriage and family therapist supervisor in marriage and family therapy or any combination of these; and

(b) Five years of clinical practice that includes the equivalent of one year of clinical practice working with couples and families.

(4) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(5) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

(6) "One-on-one supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates.

(7) "Supervised experience requirement" means experience that is obtained under an approved supervisor who meets the requirements described in WAC 246-809-134.

(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a license holder to act as an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-134.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

**WAC 246-809-130 Supervised postgraduate experience.** The ~~((following are))~~ experience requirements for the marriage and family therapist applicant's practice area ~~((-~~

~~((1)))~~ include successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of two calendar years of full-time marriage and family therapy. Of the total supervision, one hundred hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with at least five years' clinical experience; the other one hundred hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Total experience requirements include:

~~((a)))~~ (1) A minimum of three thousand hours of experience, one thousand hours of which must be direct client contact; at least five hundred hours must be gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families; plus

~~((b)))~~ (2) At least two hundred hours of qualified supervision with ~~((a))~~ an approved supervisor. At least one hundred of the two hundred hours must be one-on-one supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or group supervision.

~~((2)))~~ (3) Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy may be credited with five hundred hours of direct client contact and one hundred hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-134 Approved supervisor.** (1) The approved supervisor shall hold a license without restrictions that has been in good standing for at least two years.

(2) The approved supervisor shall not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the licensure candidate's therapist within the past two years.

(3) The approved supervisor, prior to the commencement of any supervision, shall provide the licensure candidate a declaration, on a form provided by the department, that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-134 and qualifies as an approved supervisor.

(4) The approved supervisor shall have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

(i) A supervision course; or

- (ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or
  - (iii) Supervision of supervision; or
  - (iv) Any combination of these; and
- (b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice; or
- (c) An American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) approved supervisor is considered to have met the qualifications above.
- (5) The approved supervisor shall attest to having thorough knowledge of the supervisee's practice activities including:
- (a) Practice setting;
  - (b) Recordkeeping;
  - (c) Financial management;
  - (d) Ethics of clinical practice; and
  - (e) A backup plan for coverage.
- (6) Applicants whose supervised postgraduate experience began prior to the effective date of these rules are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-210 Definitions.** The following definitions apply to the licensure of mental health counselors.

(1) "Approved educational program" means any college or university accredited by an accreditation body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successor, at the time the applicant completed the required education.

(2) "Approved setting" includes facilities, agencies or private practice where an applicant works with individuals, families, couples or groups under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

(3) "Approved supervisor" means a qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner who has been licensed without restrictions for at least two years.

(4) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner.

(5) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(6) "Immediate supervision" means a meeting with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates.

(7) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an

approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a licensee to act as an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-234.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-17-113, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01)

**WAC 246-809-230 Supervised postgraduate experience.** The ~~((following are))~~ experience requirements for the mental health applicant's practice area ~~(( ))~~ include successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of thirty-six months full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner in an approved setting. The three thousand hours of required experience includes a minimum of one hundred hours spent in immediate supervision with the qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner, and includes a minimum of one thousand two hundred hours of direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-234 Approved supervisor.** (1) The approved supervisor shall hold a license without restrictions that has been in good standing for at least two years.

(2) The approved supervisor shall not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the licensure candidate's therapist within the past two years.

(3) The approved supervisor, prior to the commencement of any supervision, shall provide the licensure candidate a declaration, on a form provided by the department, that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-234 and qualifies as an approved supervisor.

(4) The approved supervisor shall have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

(i) A supervision course; or

(ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or

(iii) Supervision of supervision; and  
(b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice.

(5) The approved supervisor shall have full knowledge of the licensure candidate's practice activities including:

(a) Recordkeeping;  
(b) Financial management;  
(c) Ethics of clinical practice; and  
(d) The licensure candidate's backup plan for coverage in times when the licensure candidate is not available to their clients.

(6) Applicants whose supervised postgraduate experience began prior to the effective date of these rules are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-310 Definitions.** The following definitions apply to the licensure of independent clinical and advanced social workers.

(1) "Approved educational program" means a master's or doctoral educational program in social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(2) "Approved supervisor" means a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW), licensed advanced social worker (LASW) (for LASWs only), or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

(3) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner.

(4) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(5) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

(6) "Nationally recognized standards" means the *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards*, revised October 2004 published by the Council on Social Work Education revised October 2004 or any future revisions.

(7) "One-on-one supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and one licensure candidate.

(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a licensee to become an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-334.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 01-17-113, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01)

WAC 246-809-320 Education requirements and supervised postgraduate experience. ~~((The following are education and experience requirements for the applicant's practice area:~~

~~(1) Licensed advanced social worker:~~

~~(a) Graduation from a master's or doctoral social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards; and~~

~~(b) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two hundred hours with ninety hours of supervision by a licensed independent clinical social worker or a licensed advanced social worker who has been licensed or certified for at least two years. Of those hours, fifty hours must include direct supervision by a licensed advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social worker; the other forty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Forty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited to forty supervision hours. Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact.~~

~~(2) Licensed independent clinical social worker:~~

~~(a) Graduation from a master's or doctorate level social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards; and~~

~~(b) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours of experience, of which one thousand hours must be direct client contact, over a three-year period supervised by a licensed independent clinical social worker, with supervision of at least one hundred thirty hours by a licensed mental health practitioner. Of the total supervision, seventy hours must be with an independent clinical social worker; the other sixty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Sixty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and seventy hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited to sixty supervision hours.)) (1) The following are the education requirements for the social worker applicant's practice area:~~

(a) Licensed advanced social worker. Graduation from a master's or doctoral social work educational program accredited by



the Council on Social Work Education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards.

(b) Licensed independent clinical social worker. Graduation from a master's or doctorate level social work educational program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards.

(2) The following are the supervised postgraduate experience requirements for the social worker applicant's practice area:

(a) Licensed advanced social worker. Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two hundred hours with ninety hours of supervision by a licensed independent clinical social worker or a licensed advanced social worker who has been licensed or certified for at least two years. Of those hours, fifty hours must include direct supervision by a licensed advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social worker; the other forty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Forty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited to forty supervision hours. Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact.

(b) Licensed independent clinical social worker. Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours of experience, of which one thousand hours must be direct client contact, over a three-year period supervised by a licensed independent clinical social worker, with supervision of at least one hundred thirty hours by a licensed mental health practitioner. Of the total supervision, seventy hours must be with an independent clinical social worker; the other sixty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Sixty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and seventy hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited to sixty supervision hours.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-809-334 Approved supervisor standards and responsibilities.** (1) The approved supervisor must hold a license without restrictions that has been in good standing for at least two years.

(2) The approved supervisor shall not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the licensure candidate's therapist within the past two years.

(3) The approved supervisor, prior to the commencement of any supervision, shall provide the licensure candidate a declaration, on a form provided by the department, that the supervisor has met

the requirements of WAC 246-809-334 and qualifies as an approved supervisor.

(4) The approved supervisor shall have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

- (i) A supervision course; or
- (ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or
- (iii) Supervision of supervision; and

(b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice; and

(c) Has had two years of clinical experience postlicensure (LASWs only) or five years of clinical experience postcertification or licensure (for LICSWs only).

(5) The approved supervisor shall attest to having thorough knowledge of the licensure candidate's practice activities including:

- (a) Specific practice setting;
- (b) Recordkeeping;
- (c) Financial management;
- (d) Ethics of clinical practice; and

(e) The licensure candidate's backup plan for coverage in times when he/she is not available to their clients.

(6) Licensure candidates whose supervised postgraduate experience began prior to the effective date of these rules are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.